

We Claim:

1. A system for developing an emergency plan for a building, said system executing the steps of:
 - collecting data that defines architectural features of a building;
 - developing a floor-by-floor digital image of the building, said floor-by-floor digital image being based on data that is collected by the collection system;
 - organizing the digital image of at least one floor of the building into one or more coded zones; associating segments of each coded zone of said building with alpha/numeric characters; and
 - maintaining said floor-by-floor digital image at a location that is outside of said building and that is also available to emergency responders.
2. The system of Claim 1 wherein the segments of each of said coded zones are defined spaces within said building and wherein members of said segments are identified by a symbol or combination of symbols.
3. The system of Claim 1 or 2 wherein said floor-by-floor digital image is retained by an emergency responder.
4. The system of Claim 1, 2 or 3 wherein said system further includes a set of standard symbols that represent architectural features, and wherein said data collection is accomplished by applying said standard symbols to a drawing of at least one floor of the building, said drawing showing the exterior and interior walls that are located on that floor.
5. The system of Claim 4 wherein said set of standard symbols are in the form of decals that are applied to the drawing of the building.

6. The system of Claim 4 or 5 wherein said step of developing a plan view of at least one floor of the building includes developing a digital image of the drawing of at least one floor of the building.

7. The system of Claim 6 wherein said digital image is stored as a read-only digital file.

8. The system of Claim 6 wherein the color-coded zones are added to the digital image of the drawing of at least one floor of the building.

9. The system of Claim 6, 7 or 8 wherein the internal segments of the drawing of at least one floor of the building are defined by the internal and external walls of the building.

10. The system of Claim 6 or 9 wherein the alpha/numeric characters are added to the digital image of the drawing of at least one floor of the building.

11. The system of Claim 1, 2, 3 or 4 further including door insignias, said door insignias being applied in the vicinity of the doors of at least one floor of the building to indicate the zone and segments that are accessed by entry through said door.

12. The system of Claim 11 wherein said door insignias are applied in the vicinity of the exterior doors of at least one floor of the building to indicate the zone and segments that are accessed by entry through said exterior door.

13. The system of Claim 11 wherein said door insignias are applied in the vicinity of the interior doors of at least one floor of the building to indicate the zone and segments that are accessed by entry through said interior door.

14. The system of Claim 11 wherein said door decals has a color that corresponds to the color of the zones that are accessed through said door, and wherein said door also has alpha/numeric characters that correspond to the segments that can be accessed through said door.

15. A method for developing an emergency plan for a building, said method comprising the steps of:

- collecting data that defines architectural features of a building;
- developing a floor-by-floor digital image of the building, said floor-by-floor digital image being based on data that is collected by the collection system;
- organizing the digital image of at least one floor of the building into one or more coded zones;
- associating segments of each coded zone of said building with symbols or combinations of symbols that are unique to that segment; and
- maintaining said floor-by-floor digital image at a location that is available to emergency responders.

16. The method of Claim 15 wherein the segments of each of said coded zones are defined spaces within said building and wherein adjacent members of said segments are numbered.

17. The method of Claim 15 or 16 wherein said floor-by-floor digital image is retained by an emergency responder.

18. The method of Claim 15, 16 or 17 wherein said method further includes a set of standard symbols that represent architectural features, and wherein said data collection is accomplished by applying said standard symbols to a drawing of at least one floor of the building, said drawing showing the exterior and interior walls that are located on that floor.

19. The method of Claim 18 wherein said set of standard symbols are in the form of decals that are applied to the drawing of the building.
20. The method of Claim 18 or 19 wherein said step of developing a plan view of at least one floor of the building includes developing a digital image of the drawing of at least one floor of the building.
21. The method of Claim 20 wherein said digital image is stored as a read-only digital file.
22. The method of Claim 20 wherein the coded zones of the digital image of the drawing of at least one floor of the building are color-coded zones.
23. The method of Claim 20, 21 or 22 wherein the internal segments of the digital image of at least one floor of the building are defined by the internal and external walls of the building.
24. The method of Claim 20 or 23 wherein the symbols that are added to the digital image of the drawing of at least one floor of the building are alpha/numeric characters.
25. The method of Claim 15, 16, 17 or 18 further including door insignias, said door insignias being applied in the vicinity of the doors of at least one floor of the building to indicate the zone and segments that are accessed by entry through said door.
26. The method of Claim 25 wherein said door insignias have a color that corresponds to the color of the zones that are accessed through said door, and wherein said door insignias also have alpha/numeric characters that correspond to the segments that can be accessed through said door.